(c) Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 have been amended on 31.7.2006. Sub rule (11) has been added to rule 7 and provides that no programme shall carry advertisements exceeding 12 minutes per hour, which may include upto 10 minutes per hour of commercial advertisements, and upto 2 minutes per hour of a channels' self promotional programmes.

Agreement with Government of Goa

1098. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to handover Management of International Film Festival to Goa Government;

(b) whether any agreement to this effect has been arrived at between the Central Government and the Government of Goa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Government of Goa have written to Government of India in this regard. The International Film Festival of India, 2006 is, meanwhile, proposed to be organized at Goa by Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Goa. A Memorandum of Understanding will be entered into by and between the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and the State Government of Goa, delineating the partnership arrangements between the DFF and the State Government of Goa, in the organization of the International Film Festival of India, 2006.

Protection of Indian labourers abroad

†1099. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to set up any cell in Indian embassies in foreign countries to deal with the problems being faced by the Indian labourers and provide them protection;

(b) if, so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) No, Sir, However, the Indian Missions in countries with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sizeable population of Indian emigrant workers have designated officers to deal with community/labour welfare matters including the problems faced by the Indian emigrant workers which are brought to their notice. The Missions through such officers extend support in all such matters, wherever necessary.

Applications for emigration clearance

1100. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are thousands of applications pending for emigration clearance in various Protector General offices in the country after the C.B.I. raids in the Protector-General offices; and

(b) if so, the action taken for clearance of the applications?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lacunae in Indian Immigration act, 1983

1101. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of the OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the lacunae in the Indian Immigration Act, 1983. which have led to problems being faced by Indian workers sent abroad for employment but are exploited and abused there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Emigration Act, 1983 embodies the principle/guidelines for the protection of emigrant workers. However, since the enactment came into force 23 years ago, the objective conditions of emigration have changed considerably. As such a need has been felt to transform the emigration system to make it simple and transparent, promote orderly & humane emigration and to ensure better protection and welfare of the workers through comprehensive amendments to the emigration Act, 1983. The process of amending the Act is under consideration.